

18th Annual

Equity in the Classroom

Inclusion, Leadership and the Classroom: Making the Connection

March 30–April 1, 2008

Holiday Inn

Big Rapids, Michigan

hosted by
Ferris State University
Big Rapids, Michigan

The conference is sponsored by
the King-Chavez-Parks Initiative,
15 public and five private universities,
along with GEAR UP Michigan!

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Equity in the Classroom Conference Purpose

For the 18th year the Equity Conference focuses on achieving parity in enrollment, retention, and graduation for underrepresented students of color and academically and economically disadvantaged students in Michigan's institutions of higher education. Teams of faculty, staff and administrators from sponsoring institutions are encouraged to participate in the conference. Team members are encouraged to learn, to share, and to take back to their campuses insights garnered at the conference. Teams are encouraged to network with their colleagues at other institutions to learn about those institutions' efforts to become truly diverse and inclusive communities. Teams are also encouraged to share their own efforts to create campuses where learning can take place in an atmosphere that fosters collaboration, cooperation, and understanding. Join us in this quest!

This year's conference will be held at Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Michigan from March 30-April 1, 2008. The theme is "Inclusion, Leadership and the Classroom: Making the Connections."

The King-Chavez-Parks Initiative, 15 public and five private universities, along with GEAR Up Michigan!, cosponsor the conference.

Who Should Attend

Faculty, student affairs staff, department chairs, directors, deans, vice-presidents, presidents who are willing to implement new ideas and strategies in campus programming, curriculum and pedagogy development, and student retention.

Featured Speakers

Paul Loeb

Paul Rogat Loeb is the author of *The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear* (Basic Books, 2004, and named the #3 political book of that year by the History Channel and the American Book Association), *Soul of a Citizen: Living With Conviction in a Cynical Time* (St Martin's Press 1999, now with over 95,000 copies in print), *Generation at the Crossroads: Apathy and Action on the American Campus* (Rutgers University Press, 1994), *Nuclear Culture*, and *Hope in Hard Times*. He has written on social involvement for The New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today, Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe, Psychology Today, Utne Reader, Redbook, Parents magazine, Christian Science Monitor, Mother Jones, Salon, the Village Voice, National Catholic Reporter, Chronicle of Higher Education, and the International Herald Tribune. He's been interviewed on CNN, NPR, PBS, C-SPAN, NBC TV, the BBC, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, American Urban Radio, and national German and Australian radio. He's lectured on over 300 college campuses and at numerous national conferences. His January 2002 talk at the annual provost's conference of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities inspired what is now a 200-campus American Democracy Project. Loeb is also an affiliate scholar at Seattle's Center for Ethical Leadership.



Melissa Harris-Lacewell

Melissa Harris-Lacewell is Associate Professor of Politics and African American Studies at Princeton University. She received her B.A. in English from Wake Forest University, her Ph.D. in political science from Duke University and an honorary doctorate from Meadville Lombard Theological School. She is also a student at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

She is author of *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought*, (Princeton 2004). This text demonstrates how African Americans develop political ideas through ordinary conversations in places like barbershops, churches, and popular culture. The work was awarded the 2005 W.E.B. DuBois book award from the National Conference of Black Political Scientists. It was also the winner of the 2005 Best Book Award from the Race and Ethnic Politics Section of the American Political Science Association. Her academic research has been published in scholarly journals and edited volumes and her interests include the study of African American political thought, black religious ideas and practice, and social and clinical psychology. She is at work on a new book: *For Colored Girls Who've Considered Politics When Being Strong Wasn't Enough*. It is an examination of the connections between shame, sadness, and strength in African American women's politics.



James W. Loewen

James Loewen is a sociologist who spent two years at the Smithsonian surveying twelve leading high school textbooks of American history only to find an embarrassing blend of bland optimism, blind nationalism, and plain misinformation, weighing in at an average of 888 pages and almost five pounds. A best-selling author who wrote *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your High School History Textbook Got Wrong* and *Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong*. A researcher who discovered that many communities across the United States were "Sundown Towns" (*Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism*) that kept out blacks (and sometimes other groups) for decades. (Some still do.) He attended Carleton College, holds the Ph.D. in sociology from Harvard University, and taught race relations for twenty years at the University of Vermont.



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March 30, Sunday — Interdisciplinary Resource Center, Ferris State University

5:00–8:00 p.m. Registration

6:00–8:30 p.m. Conference Opening featuring Exhibits and Video Vignettes

March 31, Monday — Holiday Inn

7:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Registration

7:30–8:45 a.m. Breakfast

8:45–10:15 a.m. WELCOME

David Eisler, President, Ferris State University

**Deb LaPine, Director, Career Education Programs, Department of Labor and
Economic Growth**

**Featured Speaker: Paul Loeb, *Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in a Cynical
Time***

Drawing on 35 years of exploring citizen involvement, Paul focuses on how ordinary citizens and students in particular can make their voices heard and actions count in a time when we're told neither matter. He talks of how people get involved in larger community issues and what stops them from getting involved; how they burn out in exhaustion or maintain their commitment for the long haul; how involvement can give them a sense of connection and purpose rare in purely personal life.

10:30–12:00 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS I

A. *Teaching for Engagement*—Paul Loeb (Session repeats at 2:30 p.m.)

In this session, we will engage in a discussion aimed at faculty and staff, exploring how to teach social commitment to America's future citizens. This will be a great opportunity to work with your faculty development and service learning networks, and for participants to reflect on their mission as educators.

B. *A Level Playing Field: A How-To-Primer*—Shirley Brozzo, Lynn Walden, and Leann Miller, Northern Michigan University

We'll consider activities that are designed to promote understanding of and the need for disabilities accommodations in all teaching. What you learn will help you

reach and retain students.

- C. *Attitudes Toward Affirmative Action and Advocating for Continued Campus Diversity Planning***—Erica Carr and Martha Warfield, Western Michigan University

We will focus our discussion on how to advocate for continued campus diversity in the aftermath of Prop 2 using university members' attitudes toward and knowledge of affirmative action.

- D. *Playing Well with Others: Incorporating Experiential Exercises into Your Presentations***—Anne Marie Gillespie, Ferris State University

Join us to learn how to use experiential activities and resources in your classroom that are designed to "plant seeds" and utilize various formats for effective communication about diversity and inclusion.

- E. *Stretching your GEAR UP/College Day Dollars through Creative Programs and Partnerships***—Mary Henley, Carla Clark, Tina Natale, and Tanesia Greer, Central Michigan University

This workshop will help participants establish important relationships with partner schools, connect with students, and create a quality program by using easy to implement strategies.

- F. *Safe Place Training: Including LGBT People and Their Allies***—Brian Kelly and Wendy Hardy, Ferris State University

In this workshop, you'll learn about resources that can be used to educate and advocate for your Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered students and colleagues.

12:00 p.m.

LUNCHEON

Featured Speaker: Melissa Harris-Lacewell, *Teaching Race through the Stories We Know*

Dr. Harris-Lacewell writes, "My goal is to encourage students to think about stories they already know, things that are personal and close to them, in new ways. I want to disrupt their assumptions about the causes of events and their meanings, and show how events they think they already understand have ties to other parts of life. This means that we don't start with detached analysis. Scholarly work, regardless of the discipline, originates in an intensely personal place. It's within conversations, experiences and relationships that intellectuals begin to ask questions about the way the world works. But the personal is only the starting point. Experience is a great place to develop your hypothesis, but it's a terrible place to gather data. You must go way beyond personal experience when you start looking for evidence."

2:30–4:00 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS II

- A. *Teaching Race through the Stories We Know: Katrina*** — Melissa Harris-Lacewell

Using Hurricane Katrina as an example, participants will learn how to use personal hypothesis and social scientific method in classroom pedagogy around race. Considerable time will be spent discussing techniques that have worked in both single-race and racially diverse classrooms.

- B. *Teaching for Engagement*** — Paul Loeb (*Repeat of 10:30 a.m. session*)

In this session, we will engage in a discussion aimed at faculty and staff, exploring how to teach social commitment to America's future citizens. This will be a great opportunity to work with your faculty development and service

learning networks, and for participants to reflect on their mission as educators.

- C. *Stereotypes: Why They Exist, What They Do, and Useful Responses***—Andy Karafo and Yolanda Barnes, Ferris State University

This session will provide an understanding of stereotypes and actions that can be taken to recognize and then ameliorate their effects.

- D. *Lawrence Tech Scholars: Creating a Diverse, Supportive, and Interdependent Community***—Kevin Kelch, Lawrence Technological University

In this session, you'll learn how to develop a new type of Scholars organization that empowers underrepresented students and consider ways to inspire students to lead and give back to their peers and their communities.

- E. *Teachable Moments: Turning Disparaging Comments into Critical Thinking Exercises***—Ulana Klymyshyn, Central Michigan University

Critical thinking is an important part of multicultural education. Participants will learn strategies for turning texts that misrepresent underrepresented populations into critical thinking exercises.

- F. *A Developing Model for Grass-Roots Parental Involvement in GEAR UP Schools***—Michelle Hagerman, EduGuide: Partnership for Learning; Carole Lapidus, and Phillip Rutherford, University of Michigan

You'll learn about how our model for parental involvement aims to tap the power of passionate volunteers and get strategies, tools and contacts to build a grass-roots parent-involvement program.

- G. *KCP 4-S Special Project: Time to Degree Completion*** —William E. Hill, and Kai Lee, Wayne State University; Fawn Skarsten, University of Michigan-Flint

This session highlights the findings of the 4-S Special Project Report on Time to Degree Completion and will explore the meaning of those findings and what next steps should be taken.

4:15–6:00 p.m.

Jim Crow Museum Tours (*Shuttle sign up available at conference registration desk*)

6:00–7:00 p.m.

Buffet Dinner

7:30 p.m.

Entertainment: SST Communications, *Synergy from Others: Cultural Diversity on Campus*

SST Communications is a theatre based training company that combines factual information with comedic and dramatic vignettes to motivate audiences towards solutions. SST provides training programs for corporations and campuses; for employers and students. Their programs deal with controversial issues such as sexual harassment, cultural diversity, and violence prevention. SST's unique format has been effectively educating employees and students across the U.S. and Canada since 1988.

April 1, Tuesday—HOLIDAY INN

7:30–8:45 a.m.

BREAKFAST

8:45–10:00 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION

Featured Speaker: James Loewen — *How History Keeps Us Racist*

American culture, including academia, has failed to understand that there was a nadir of race relations between 1890 and 1940 in the United States. During this period the country became more and more racist, leading to a significant distortion of American history (Columbus, Ulysses S. Grant, Woodrow Wilson, sun-down towns). These distortions have major implications for current racial attitudes.

10:15–11:45 a.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS III

A. *Racist History and What to Do About It*—James Loewen

Participants will learn what needs to be done to correct the distortions of American history that have produced the current set of economic and social arrangements that structure relationships between different groups in the United States.

B. *The Hero's Journey: Legendary Leadership and Engagement*—Jeff Mangram, SST Communications

In 1949 Joseph Campbell published a study entitled “The Hero with a Thousand Faces.” His premise was simple; while the costumes change from culture to culture, the hero's deed or act, and the process that he or she undertakes in achieving that goal remains virtually the same. This Journey will be presented as a six-step process: *The Call to Adventure*; *Supernatural Aid*; *Crossing the First Threshold*; *The Trials*; *The Prize*; and *The Return*. What Campbell tells us is that any time an individual is charged with accomplishing a difficult task, this is the process he or she must go through in order to achieve it.

C. *Diversity at CMU: Vision 2010, Strategic Planning, and Student Activism*—Denise Green, Ulana Klymyshyn, and Carole Richardson, Central Michigan University

Join us to learn how to combine grass-roots pressure with administrative commitment to achieve diversity at a predominantly white institution.

D. *Interactional Diversity on a University Campus (MSU): The Classroom Component*—Jessica Mills, Ferris State University

Participants will learn how the classroom environment contributes to interactional diversity. Methods for creating a challenging and inclusive environment in the classroom will be demonstrated.

E. *From Holocaust Denial to the Bell Curve: Empowering Students and Making Connections—The Porteus Hall Project*—Barry Mehler, Ferris State University

Participants will learn how to build internet coalitions so that academic projects result in social change. The project to change the name of Porteus Hall at the University of Hawaii will be demonstrated as a model.

F. *Hello, We're in the Room: Issues Relating to Persons with Disabilities*—William Potter and Debra Cox, Ferris State University

A panel composed of Ferris State University students with physical and hidden disabilities will share with the audience the challenges they face at the post secondary level.

G. *Strategic Planning for GEAR-UP Parental Involvement: Research-based Strategies that Engage More Parents in Meaningful Ways*—Michelle Hagerman, EduGuide: Partnership for Learning.

Why are some parents more involved than others? Examine the common barriers parents face and consider strategies your cohort schools can use to overcome them.

12:00–1:30 p.m.

LUNCHEON & CLOSING REMARKS

1:30 p.m.

CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

Conference Registration Fee

Conference registration fees and included meals are paid by higher education institution members that support the Equity Conference. Conference registration is facilitated through each institution's delegation coordinator. Please send your completed registration form to your institution's coordinator listed below and direct any questions to him/her. Please note that all registrations must be received by your coordinator prior to March 14, 2008.

Hotel Registration

The Equity Conference will be hosted by Ferris State University and held at the university owned and operated Holiday Inn located at 1005 Perry Avenue. When making reservations (231-796-4400), please indicate that you are a participant of the Equity in the Classroom Conference to receive the special room rate of \$85 (plus taxes)per night. After March 7th hotel reservations will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis only. Additional information and directions can be found on the web site at: <http://eup.wmich.edu/olle>. Click on Conferences and then on Equity.

Sponsoring Institutions and Delegation Coordinators

Central Michigan University.....	Ulana Klymyshyn.....	klymy1au@cmich.edu
Eastern Michigan University	Margaret Carter	margaret.carter@emich.edu
Ferris State University.....	John Thorp.....	thorpj@ferris.edu
Grand Valley State University	Oliver Wilson.....	wilsono@gvsu.edu
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Lawrence Technological University.....	Hsaio-Ping Moore	moore@ltu.edu
Madonna University.....	Osvaldo Rivera.....	orivera@madonna.edu
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REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Title _____

University/College _____

Mailing address _____ ☐ home ☐ work

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day phone _____ Fax number _____

E-mail address _____

Delegation Coordinator's Name _____

Please indicate the events and sessions you will participate in by checking the appropriate boxes.

Sunday, March 30, 2008 (This event takes place on the FSU campus)

☐ 6:00–8:30 p.m. Welcome Reception at Ferris State University's Interdisciplinary Resource Center

Monday, March 31, 2008 (These events all take place at the Holiday Inn)

☐ 7:30–8:45 a.m. Breakfast followed by Plenary Session

☐ 10:30 a.m. Breakout Sessions I: ***(Please circle your choice)*** 1-A 1-B 1-C 1-D 1-E 1-F

☐ 12:00 p.m. Luncheon with Featured Speaker

☐ 2:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions II: ***(Please circle your choice)*** 2-A 2-B 2-C 2-D 2-E 2-F 2-G

☐ 6:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner

☐ 7:30 p.m. Entertainment: SST Communications — *Synergy from Others: Cultural Diversity on Campus*

Tuesday, April 1, 2008 (These events all take place at the Holiday Inn)

☐ 7:30–8:45 a.m. Breakfast followed by Plenary Session

☐ 10:15 a.m. Breakout Sessions III: ***(Please circle your choice)*** 3-A 3-B 3-C 3-D 3-E 3-F 3-G

☐ 12:00 p.m. Luncheon

Conference registration is facilitated through each institution's delegate coordinator. Please send your completed registration form to your institution's delegate listed on the facing page, and direct any questions to him or her. Please note that all registrations must be received by your coordinator prior to March 14, 2008.

ATTENTION Delegate Coordinators (Only): Please fax your accepted registration forms to (269) 387-4189 no later than **March 21, 2008.**